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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 15-32 are pending in the application. Claims 15-19, 24, 25, 30, and 31 have been amended to eliminate reference symbols (in parentheses), thereby obviating the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Also, claims 17 and 21 have been amended to correct claim dependencies. New claim 32 is added by the present amendment, where claim 32 incorporates the subject matter of claim 15 and claim 16 (indicated as allowable); therefore, new claim 32 should be in condition for allowance. The above amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Independent claims 15 and 30 are directed to a method and a device for changing the image size of video images, where a video image is decimated by an integral decimation factor and a fine decimation factor which can be adjusted to non-integral values. In other words, claims 15 and 30 define two separate decimation stages: integral decimation and fine decimation.

For example, as described on page 4, line 19 to page 5, line 3 of the specification, a horizontal scaler 1 for carrying out fine decimation can involve interpolation by a factor LIIS and decimation (sub-sampling) by a factor MHS. Therefore, in one exemplary embodiment, both interpolation and decimation occur in the fine decimation stage.

However, according to the Applicants' claimed invention, fine decimation is followed by integral decimation (see, e.g., horizontal decimation filter 2) where sub-sampling by an integral decimation factor MHD occurs. In other words, the Applicants' claimed invention recites a two-stage decimation procedure (see, e.g., specification at page 4, lines 8-12)

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Claims 15 and 20-31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,574,572 to Malinowski et al. (hereinafter "Malinowski") in view of U.S. Patent 4,991,010 to Hailey et al. (hereinafter "Hailey"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Malinowski does not teach or suggest a method or device for sub-sampling by an integral decimation factor, which follows a fine decimation. Instead, Malinowski discloses only a single decimation stage.

Referring to column 3, lines 26-36 of Malinowski, as cited in the Office Action, in order to downscale a picture, Malinowski proposes a combination of a linear interpolator and a decimating FIR filter, where an upscaling factor of the interpolator is between one and two, and the decimation factor is a power of two (see also FIGS. 5 and 6 showing the combination of an interpolator and a decimation filter for the vertical and horizontal directions). In other words, Malinowski teaches single-stage decimation in the vertical and horizontal directions.

However, Malinowski does not teach or suggest the combination of an integral decimation and a fine decimation. Instead, Malinowski discloses the combination of an interpolation with a decimation – which corresponds to a single decimation stage.

In the Office Action, column 2, lines 58-61 of Hailey was cited, apparently for teaching use of a "non-integer decimation factor." However, Hailey does not teach or suggest the two-stage decimation recited in the Applicants' claimed invention.

As described in Hailey, decimation relates to a reduction in the number of lines and/or columns of the video image to be processed. The opposite of decimation is interpolation, where additional rows, columns, or pixels are inserted.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the proposed combination of Malinowski in view of Hailey does not teach or suggest the two-stage decimation recited in the Applicants' claimed invention.

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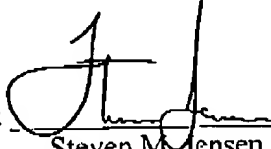
It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

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By: 
Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)

P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874